

SB 111 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS.

Members of the Appropriations committee, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify on SB 111. My name is Charlyse Moses and I live in Waterbury. I support SB 111 with the following provisions.

Unfortunately, the child care sector is in crisis. We need child care workers now. There are multiple child care businesses that have closed. The hard truth is that many have closed their classrooms due to not having any staff. The ENTIRE system needs equitable support across all settings. There is no more room to raise the tuition for parents. The parents are unable to afford the early care and education that they are struggling with now.

We need on-going, substantial wage supplements and benefits for small private centers, non-profit centers (including religious programs), and family child care providers. When you look at it, the state funded and school readiness programs have not received a meaningful increase to support them since 2015. Their reimbursement rates need to be generously adjusted so that they are able to provide meaningful and high quality of care and education for our children.

I personally have had to stay home for 3 years with our son due to not being able to afford the rates of a child care center. Being a graduate of Albertus Magnus, it was hard for me to grasp that even with higher education, we were unable to afford childcare. Our bills at home need to be paid, and now we are on 1 income because we need childcare. We need change immediately; we need support for our childcare workers. We shouldn't have to struggle on both ends to meet the needs of our future. Our children are our future, and without these programs in place everything else will fall apart.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Charlyse Moses